

The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear The Federal Communications Commission,

Congratulations on your appointment to Chair the FCC. In your new leadership role, I urge you to support the "Fair Share Plan" as a solution to current concerns with the Universal Service Fund (USF). The Fair Share Plan will keep the USF fair, ensuring that consumers like me do not pay the same rate into the USF as big businesses, regardless of how little I may use long distance.

The Keep USF Fair Coalition submitted the Fair Share Plan to the FCC on January 31, 2005. It expands who pays into the USF so that other technologies - not just phones - pay into the system. The Fair Share Plan collects the USF using a combination numbers- and revenue-based plan. This keeps the system fair, equitable and non-discriminatory.

Under the flat fee or numbers-based plan you are considering, people like me who make few long distance calls would pay the same as people or businesses that make many calls. I believe it would be unfair to charge low-volume and residential customers the same fees as high-volume residential or business customers.

In addition, I am a student, and cannot afford a regular cell phone. I keep a prepaid cellphone for the 1 1/2 hour drive to grad school. I am unemployed, struggling to pay for health insurance, and this is an unfair tax. And finally, there is no law that says the phone companies need to pass this tax along to consumers. They should be paying this themselves. Those of us in rural areas pay dearly - we wait longer to get the latest technology, and when we do get it - it service is poor. As a library science student on line all day - I lose connectivity anywhere from two - fifteen times a day. My fellow students in the suburbs of Buffalo and Rochester do not experience this. Many many calls to my service provider have been futile. Please, do not add a regressive tax in addition to the huge monthly fees that I already pay for broadband Internet access. I have no Internet access at my local library. This is my only option.

I urge you to keep the USF fair, and adopt the Fair Share Plan. Thank you, and best of luck in your new position.

cc: Marlene Dortch, Secretary

Sincerely,

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